

A NEW TACHINA FLY OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

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The description of the following species is being published at this time in order to provide a name for the recording of biological information.

***Plectops amplicornis* James, new species**

Male. Almost wholly black in ground color, including the legs, antennae and palpi, the frontale at most with a trace of reddish in some specimens. Vertex about 0.42, front at antennal base about 0.55, head width; frontale about equal in width to each parafrontale. Inner verticals very long and strong; outer verticals, postocellars, and proclinate ocellars well developed; one pair of proclinate and one of reclinate frontoorbitals and four of frontals, the upper pair cruciate, the lowest two at or below the antennal bases. Facials hardly bristly, at most with a few setulae above the vibrissa and sometimes a few scattered ones reaching not more than to the middle of the face. Third antennal segment exceptionally large (Fig. 1), its maximum width

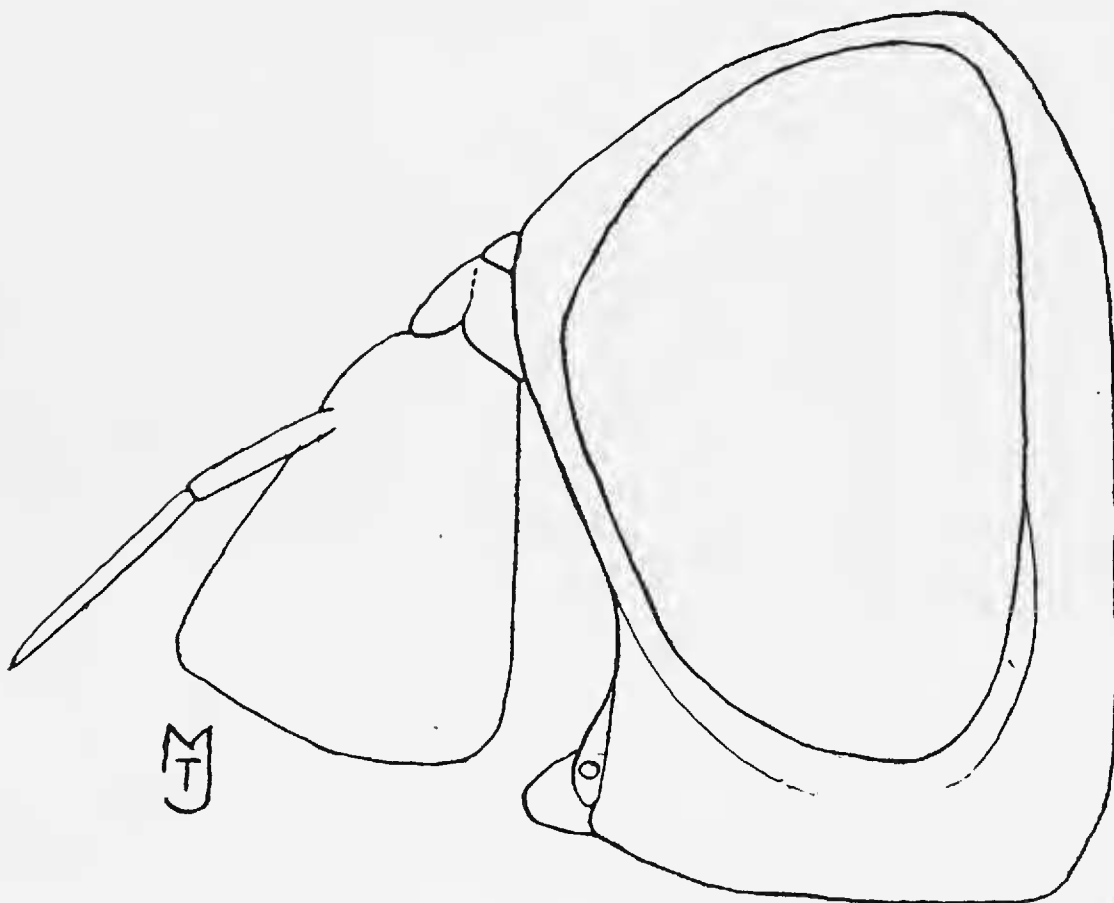


Fig. 1. Lateral view of head of *Plectops amplicornis*.

about 0.8 its length. Eyes practically bare, at most a few scattered hairs evident under high magnification. Frontale opaque, parafrontale subshining through a brownish pollen, parafacials more distinctly obscured by the pollen. *Thorax* mostly subshining, the mesonotum and scutellum with thin brownish pollen, the humeri and the pleura whitish-pollinose, the propleura and parts

of the mesopleura and pteropleura completely obscured by the pollen when viewed in certain lights. Wing grayish-hyaline; vein R_1 bare; vein R sometimes with a small setula dorsally before the origin of Rs, and vein Rs with two strong setulae, one on the upper and one on the lower surface, at its furcation; veins brown, more yellowish basally, squamae yellow, the lower ones tending to brownish-yellow; halteres yellow. *Abdomen* shining, the pollen very thin and scattered except for a band at the base of terga two, three, and four, where the pollen is dense and white; these bands are contracted, sometimes interrupted, medially on the dorsal surface, and become somewhat broader and less definitely outlined on the ventral aspects of the terga. Genitalia subshining; forceps small, about twice as long as broad, bluntly rounded apically.—Length, 4 mm.

Female. Similar to the male; the vertex and front broader (0.47 head width at vertex, 0.55 at antennal insertion), and the third antennal segment is narrower (maximum width about 0.7 length). The front tarsi, as in male, are not expanded.

Holotype male reared from *Lotisma trigonana* Walshingham which was taken in October at VAUGHN, WASHINGTON, by E. P. Breakey on the evergreen huckleberry, *Vaccinium ovatum* Pursh.; emerged December, 1951 at Puyallup, Washington. State College of Washington Type Collection No. 175. *Allotype female*, same data. *Paratopotypes*, 7 males, 1 female, same data. *Paratypes*, 1 female, Friday Harbor, Washington, June 1, 1906 (J. M. Aldrich); 1 female, Guemes Island, Washington, July 13, 1905 (Aldrich).

This species traces to the genus *Plectops* in the Curran (1934) and in the Townsend (1936) keys; it fails to run in the Coquillett key (1897), because the setulae at the apex of vein R_1 are absent. There are five species in the collection of the United States National Museum under the name *Plectops*. These are: *melissopodis* Coquillett (the genotype), *usitata* (Coquillett), *aenea* Coquillett, *pruinosa* Malloch, and *manca* Greene.

P. manca differs from *P. amplicornis* in having the apical part of vein M_{1+2} , beyond its bend, evanescent; *P. melissopodis*, *usitata*, and *pruinosa* have the head and mesonotum cinereous tomentose; and *P. aenea* has the head and anterior part of the mesonotum cinereous, whereas the rest of the mesonotum is brassy-tomentose but more yellowish than in *amplicornis*. The third antennal segment of *P. amplicornis* is broader than in the other species, the female *amplicornis* being, for example, comparable in this respect to the male *melissopodis*.

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A NEW SPECIES OF WASP OF THE GENUS SOLIERELLA FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

(Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)

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Solierella weberi Williams, new species

Male.—Length 4 mm. Black; head and thorax subopaque, abdomen shining; mandibles reddish yellow beyond their middle, dark reddish apically; tarsi and spurs brownish. Puncturation dense, finer on abdomen. Mandibles very slightly emarginate beneath, malar space about one-half basal width of mandibles; clypeus depressed anteriorly to end as a spike; frons rather gibbous, with a faint median impressed line ending anteriorly as a wedge and thence as a carina to between the antennae; ocelli in slightly less than a right-angle triangle, the lateral ocelli distant by a little more than their greatest diameter from the compound eyes; antennae only moderately stout, gently clavate, segments 3 and 4 subequal, segment 13 very short, subconical, shining, outwardly a little longer than segment 12. Disc of propodeum broadly truncate triangular, reticulate, with a delicate carinate groove, not margined laterally by a carina. Submarginal cells 1 and 2 each receiving a recurrent vein towards their tip; basal and transverse-median veins interstitial. Pile moderate and silvery.

Holotype, male, from RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, September 26, 1948 (P. W. Weber), in collection of the California Academy of Sciences. In fine condition. The paratype, also a male, was collected in Riverside, September 28, 1948 (P. W. Weber). It is 3.75 mm. long and has the disc of the propodeum coriaceous, but like the holotype has no bounding carinae, while in the forewings the transverse-median vein is slightly basad of the basal vein. Female is unknown.

At first sight this species suggests the common and widely distributed and variable *Solierella peckhami* (Ashmead), but is separated from the latter by the very short segment 13 of the antennae; in *S. peckhami* male, segment 13 is nearly equal to the sum of segments 10, 11 and 12. The non-margined propodeal disc